

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT

Deep-Sea Divers' Unit in Polish Navy

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ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)
(A)

DATE ACQUIRE

SUPPLEMENT TO
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DATE OF

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1. In 1950 there was only one unit of divers in the Polish Navy. It was called the Oddzial Awaryjao Ratowniczy and was divided into three groups, each group combining seven men. Whenever a need for divers arose, one of the groups travelled wherever needed. 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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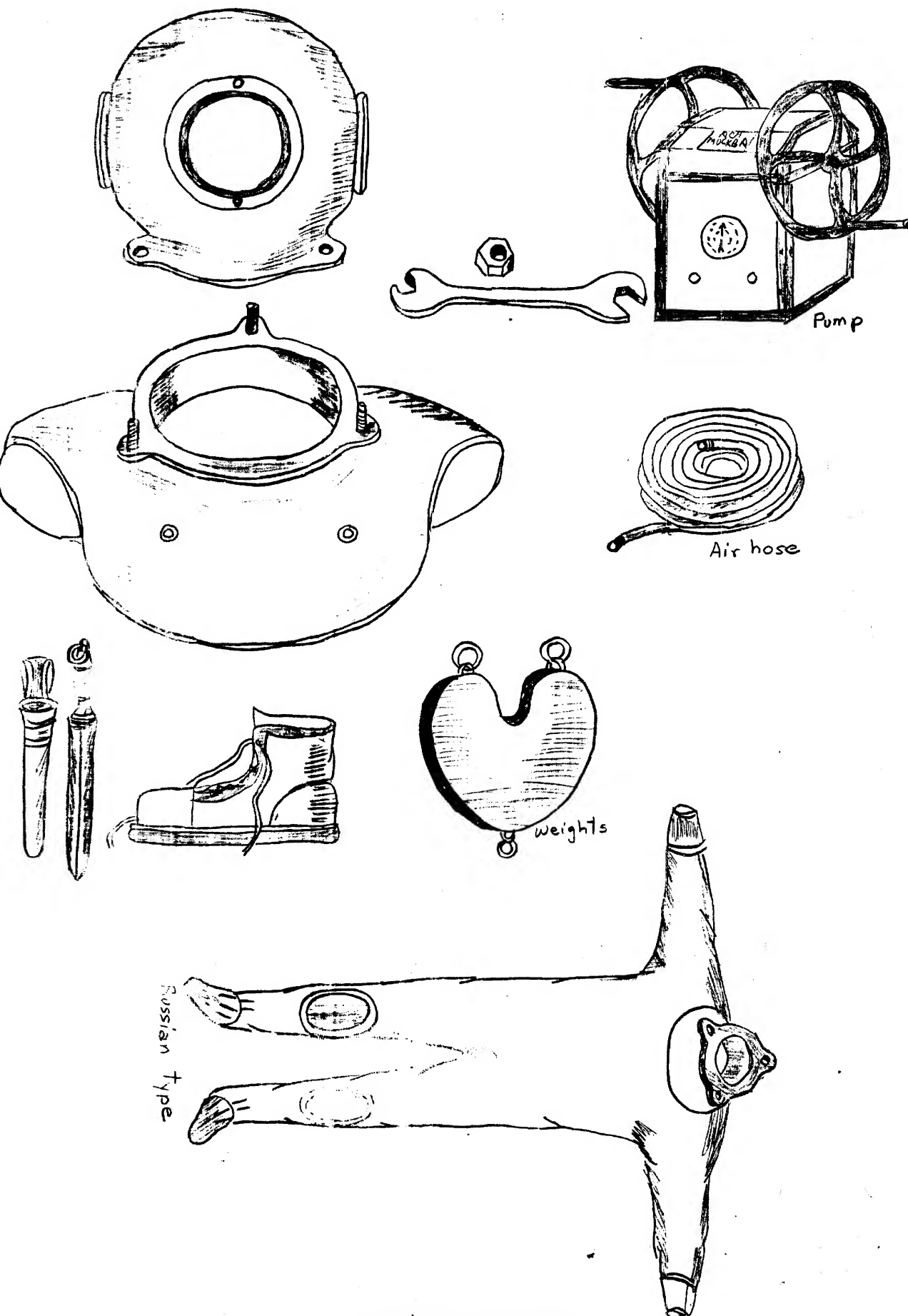
4. [redacted] The Soviet apparatus was manufactured by A S U Moscow. In addition German equipment was on hand but it was held in reserve. The divers preferred to use Soviet equipment because it was lighter than the others. [See Enclosure (A) for sketches of the Soviet-type equipment used.]
5. For diving operations [redacted] landing craft, equipped with two motors, a kitchen, a store-room for diving equipment, and rescue equipment. This landing craft was used for operation in the home base of Gdynia. 25X1
6. The Divers' Unit was so organized that two groups could be sent on an assignment away from Gdynia, while the third remained in the home base of Gdynia on call. For transporting equipment and personnel to other parts such as Ustka, Szczecin, and Swinemunde, we used the ship H.G. II, a naval trawler used for hydrography. 25X1
7. In 1949 and 1950 it was rumored [redacted] a special ship for divers was to be prepared. It was to be a reconverted tug of 300 foot. The tug was in the naval base in Gdynia, but at that time no work was going on to prepare it for diving operations. It had no machinery and nothing had been installed.
8. The divers of the Navy sometimes worked together with civilian divers in Gdynia, for instance, at the raising of the German cruiser Gneisenau. The civilian divers worked on the ship itself while the removal of explosives, artillery shells and ammunition was performed by the Navy divers.
9. The Navy divers cleared the entire part of Gdynia and of the Hel peninsula of mines, bombs and small sunken craft. In addition, our unit cleared a passage for submarines in Gdynia, so that the submarines, after overhaul in dry-dock No 13 in Gdynia, could submerge under water. The Navy divers also raised torpedoes which were duds and sank to the bottom. After each firing of torpedoes, a group of divers, who were nick-named Torpedoists, performed the task of raising torpedoes. The torpedoes were fired either from torpedo submarines, torpedo speed-boats or from O R P "Blyskawica." For training, Soviet torpedoes were employed. One group of divers also trained in planting and removing training mines of the Soviet type - 08. Each submarine in the Polish Navy had a diver assigned to it. 25X1
10. Our unit worked on a German submarine which had sunk near Gdansk. The divers entered the submarine, closed the valves, pumped out the water and the submarine rose. The submarine was towed to dry-dock at the Naval Base at Gdynia, but at Gdynia someone opened the valves and the submarine again sank in about 10 meters of water. The entire work had to be repeated by the divers. The submarine was in good condition, for the motors were usable and only the periscopes were broken. [redacted] the plans were to remove the engines from the submarine, but until the time [redacted] nothing had been done. 25X1
11. Also stationed in Gdynia was a group of Soviet divers, who worked on the repair of two German docks built for the Gneisenau and in raising the German submarine base. The Polish unit did not take part in this work.
12. Because of the unpredictable nature of our work, we had no regular duties and no special discipline was enforced. However, like other units of the Navy, we had line training once a week. In September 1950, a political officer was assigned to the unit. Only when new trainees, who had completed their training on the ship Motlawa, were assigned to the unit, as in January 1950, was an effort made to enforce the same type of discipline as in other units of the Navy.
13. The divers received a pay of 90-110 zlotys for the time under water, depending on the depth to which they descended. Up to 10 meters they received 90 zlotys, 10-20 meters, 100 zlotys and over 20 meters, 110 zlotys.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Soviet Type Equipment Used By Deep-Sea Divers' Unit

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SOVIET TYPE EQUIPMENT USED BY DEEP-SEA DIVERS' UNIT



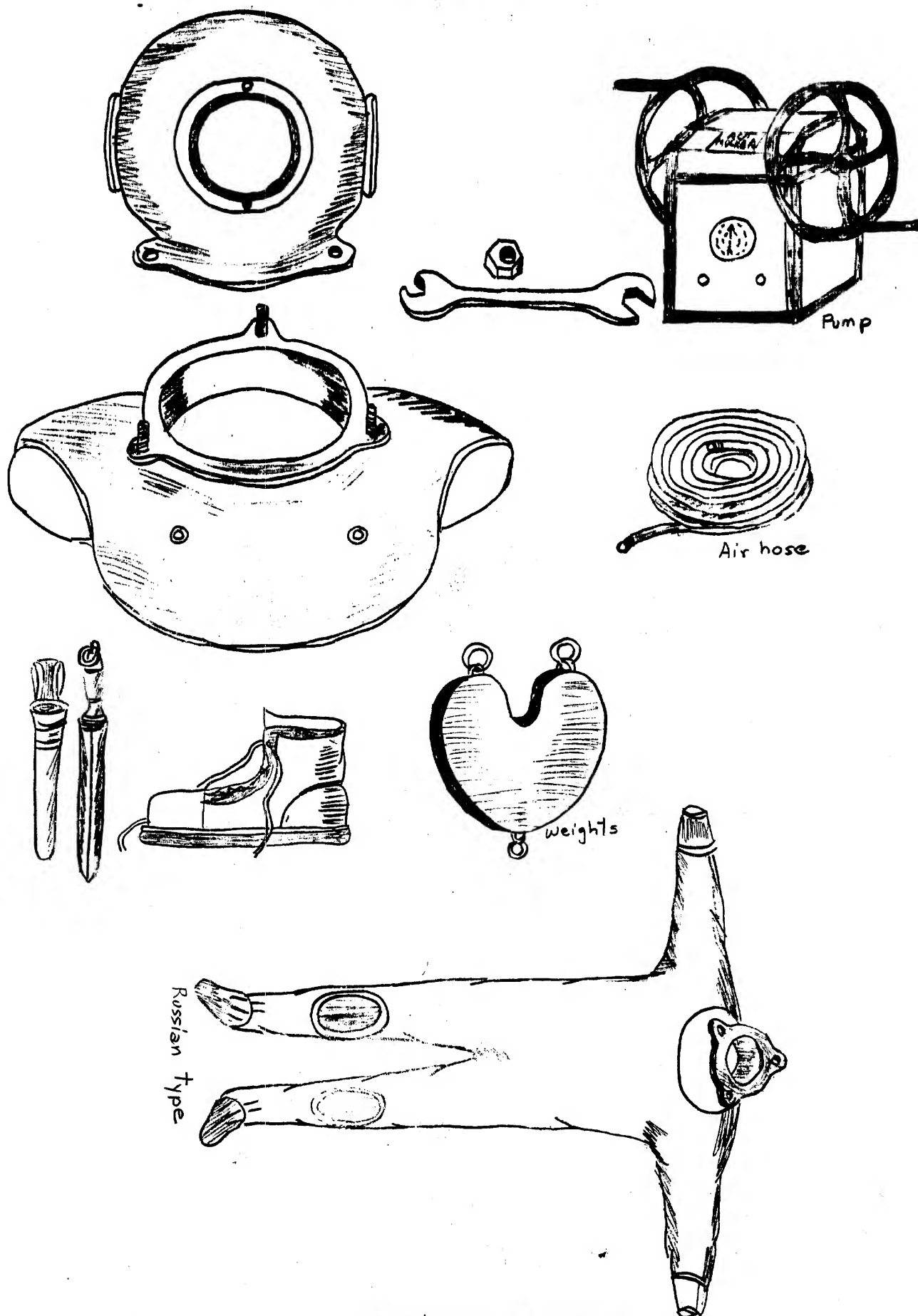
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ENCLOSURE (A)

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SOVIET TYPE EQUIPMENT USED BY DEEP-SEA DIVERS' UNIT



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